Carolyn E. Wright (CA Bar No. 263960) 1 Law Office of Carolyn E. Wright, LLC P.O. Box 430 2 Glenbrook, NV 89413 3 (775) 588-5147 (telephone) (775) 588-5961 (facsimile) 4 Email: cewright@cewrightlaw.com 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CV No. <u>'11C</u>V1346 LAB BGS 10 CAROL A. BEUCHAT Plaintiff, 11 COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT 12 **INFRINGEMENT AND DMCA** vs. **VIOLATIONS WITH** 13 DANNY DAY **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** Defendant. 14 15 Plaintiff Carol A. Beuchat states her claims against Defendant Danny Day as 16 follows: 17 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 18 1. This action arises under the Federal Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 19 U.S.C. § 101, et seq. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a). 20 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Day by virtue of his transacting, doing, 21 and soliciting business in this District, and because a substantial part of the 22 relevant events occurred in this district. 23 3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1-2) and 1400(a) because the 24 defendant resides or may be found in this District. 25 THE PARTIES TO THIS COMPLAINT 26 4. Plaintiff Carol A. Beuchat ("Beuchat") is an individual who resides, and at all 27 times herein mentioned did reside, in Mission Viejo, California. 28

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant Danny Day ("Day") is an individual who is a citizen of California.

Day may be served at his place of business at 14428 Janal Way, San Diego,
 California, 92129.

OPERATIVE FACTS

- 7. Beuchat is a full-time professional photographer who specializes in dog photography.
- 8. On or about March 21, 2010, Beuchat photographed a Newfoundland show dog owned by non-party Vu Nguyen ("Nguyen"). Beuchat made one of the photographs into a photographic portrait of the dog (the "Photograph," as shown in Exhibit "A").
- 9. The Photograph in perspective, orientation, positioning, lighting and other details is entirely original, distinctive, and unique. As such, the Photograph is subject matter protectable under the Copyright Act.
- 10. Beuchat embedded by digital means a watermark on the front of Photograph in the form of a copyright notice stating "Beuchat © 2010" (the "Watermark").
- 11. Beuchat made an 8" x 10" print of the Photograph that included the Watermark and placed a sticker on the back with her copyright management information stating "© Carol Beuchat; All Rights Reserved; www.CarolBeuchat.com; email@CarolBeuchat.com" (the "Print"). Beuchat delivered this Print to Nguyen sometime in late March 2010.
- 12. Beuchat provided the digital file of the Photograph that contained the Watermark to Dog News Magazine, which then reproduced, displayed, and distributed the Photograph as the cover of its April 16, 2010 issue (the "Magazine Cover" as shown in Exhibit "B).
- 13. Beuchat's Watermark was visible on the Magazine Cover and the Print.
- 14. Upon information and belief, Nguyen later commissioned Day to create a painting of his Newfoundland show dog. Day requested a photograph of the dog

- from Nguyen to create the painting.
- 15. Upon information and belief, Nguyen gave Day a copy of the Magazine Cover and Print.
- 16. Day thereafter created a painting (the "Painting," as shown in Exhibit "C").
- 17. Upon information and belief, Nguyen paid \$7,200.00 for the Painting.
- 18. Beuchat never authorized Day to copy, display, distribute, or to create a derivative work of the Photograph.
- 19. Day displayed and distributed the Painting on his website at www.dannyday.com, on his Facebook page, and in an art gallery.
- 20. Beuchat's Watermark was not on the Painting.
- 21. Day included his name "Danny Day" on the Painting.
- 22. Beuchat is and always has been the sole proprietor of all right, title, and interest in and to the copyright in the Photograph. Beuchat is the author and copyright owner of the Photograph pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 201.
- 23. Beuchat complied with all respects with the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, as amended, and all other laws and regulations governing copyrights and has secured the exclusive rights and privileges in and to the copyrights for the Photograph. The Register of Copyrights for the U.S. Copyright Office issued Beuchat a Certificate of Registration for the copyright to the Photograph, number VA 1-742-592, effective October 7, 2010 (as shown as Exhibit D).

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Copyright Infringement – 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.

- 24. Beuchat re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 25. Day had access to the Photograph through Nguyen from the Print and the Magazine Cover.
- 26. The Painting is a reproduction of the Photograph.
- 27. The Painting is at least substantially similar to the Photograph and is virtually identical to the Photograph.

- 28. Day did not have authorization of Beuchat or the law to reproduce, distribute, display, or create derivative works of the Photograph.
- 29. Day violated Beuchat's exclusive rights granted in 17 U.S.C. § 106, specifically her exclusive right to: (1) reproduce the copyrighted work in copies; (2) prepare derivative works based on the copyrighted work; (3) distribute copies of the copyrighted work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending; and (4) display the copyrighted work publicly.
- 30. As the Photograph was taken in March 2010 and the Painting was made thereafter, all claims of infringement are within the three-year statute of limitations period pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 507(b).
- 31. As a direct and proximate result of his wrongful conduct, Day has realized and continues to realize profits and other benefits rightfully belonging to Beuchat for the Photograph. Accordingly, Beuchat is entitled to and seeks an award of actual damages and profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b)

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Removal of Copyright Management Information – 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201 et seq.

- 32. Beuchat re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 33. The Watermark on the Photograph is identifying information about the copyright owner, constituting copyright management information pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1202(c)(1), (2) and (3).
- 34. Day's name on the Painting is identifying information about the copyright owner, constituting copyright management information pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1202(c)(2).
- 35. Day, without the authority of Beuchat or the law, intentionally removed from and altered Beuchat's copyright management information and distributed the Painting knowing that copyright management information had been removed and altered, knowing or having reasonable grounds to know that such removal and alteration would induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal a copyright

- infringement, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202(b).
- 36. Day, without the authority of Beuchat or the law, knowingly and with the intent to induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal infringement provided copyright management information that is false and distributed copyright management information that is false, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202(a).
- 37. As a direct and proximate result of Day's wrongful conduct, Beuchat has suffered damages and so is entitled to the remedies set forth under 17 U.S.C. § 1203.
- 38. Specifically, Beuchat is entitled to and seeks actual damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(2).
- 39. In the alternative, Beuchat is entitled to and seeks statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3)(B), and costs of litigation and attorney's fees pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b)(4-5).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE Beuchat prays that this Honorable Court:

- 1. Issue an order that Day's unauthorized conduct violates Beuchat's rights under the Federal Copyright Act at 17 U.S.C. §101, et seq.;
- 2. Order Day to account to Beuchat for all gains, profits, and advantages derived from Day's infringement of the Photograph;
- 3. Order Day to pay Beuchat all profits and damages in such amount as may be found pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) (with interest thereon at the highest legal rate) for Day's infringement of the Photograph;
- 4. Order Day to pay Beuchat all profits and damages in such amount as may be found pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(2) (with interest thereon at the highest legal rate) for violating Beuchat's rights pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1202;
- 5. In the alternative, if Beuchat so elects, order Day to pay Beuchat maximum statutory damages in the amount of \$25,000 for each unauthorized violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3)(B), or such other amount

as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3)(B);

- 6. Order Day to pay Beuchat her costs of litigation and reasonable attorneys' fees in this action, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b)(4-5);
- 7. Order Day to deliver to Beuchat all copies of the Painting and all other materials containing such infringing copies of the Photograph in Day's possession, custody or control;
- 8. Order Day, his agents, and servants to be enjoined during the pendency of this action and permanently from infringing the copyright of Beuchat in any manner and from reproducing, distributing, displaying, or creating derivative works of the Photograph; and
- 9. Order such other and further relief as this Honorable Court deems just and equitable.

Beuchat demands a jury trial on all of the foregoing counts.

Dated: June 13, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Carolyn E. Wright

Carolyn E. Wright (CA Bar No. 263960) Law Office of Carolyn E. Wright, LLC P.O. Box 430 Glenbrook, NV 89413 (775) 588-5147 (telephone) (775) 588-5961 (facsimile) Email: cewright@cewrightlaw.com

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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